

file

February 2, 1983

Memo to File:

RE: Inspection at the Sahara Mine
ACT/015/026
Emery County, Utah

On August 6, 1982 the Division received a notice from Energy Fuels Nuclear requesting an additional period of suspension for the Sahara Mine. The site inspection required by Rule M-7 of the Mined Land Reclamation Act after a period of two years of suspension was postponed until the earliest convenient time. The inspection of January 17, 1983 was held for this reason. Tom Tetting and Wayne Hedberg of the staff, met with Dean King, the mine foreman with EFN. Access is provided by turning off from I-70 on highway 24. The mine is about a mile south, on the east side of the road.

Although the mine is in suspension as far as mining activity is concerned, the foreman is required to check the continuous use of pumps which dewater the mine. No problems involving the mine yard were noted. The topsoil stockpile does not appear as large as mapped and, the quantity needed to satisfy EFN's commitment in the MRP is probably absent. A small sand dune to the north of the property might prove to be useful (in a better than nothing context). The bath house on the west end of the pad has been dismantled. Large boulders emplaced between the access road to the ponds and the drainfield to the south will need to eventually be scattered as part of final reclamation.

A steep decline to an old portal just east of the ponds is eroding slowly. The entrance has been secured with rebar and a tarpaulin. It is actively being used for an air vent.

Water which is being pumped from the mine is directly discharged into the south end wash and may interfinger with the undisturbed drainage. Maintenance of a more direct and distinct channel to the evaporation ponds should be requested of the company.

BaCl₂ is not being added to the water currently as no discharge from the ponds is required due to loss by evaporation. Water is encountered at the 75' and 220' level in the mine and is collected in a sump in the old workings.

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Berms which are breached in the area of the ponds or structure walls which are becoming incised should be repaired. Discharge valves should be checked to insure that they are not frozen. A recent water sample analysis should also be requested for the files.

An additional two year period of suspension should be given conditioned on the satisfaction of previously mentioned items.

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ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

TNT/gb